

Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 4 beginning at line 11 with following amended paragraph:

In APC resistance assays (e.g., COATEST and COATEST F), two APTT reactions are performed, one in the presence of APC (or PCA) and the other in its absence. The result can be calculated either as a prolongation of clotting time or as a ratio between the clotting times in the presence or absence of APC (or PCA). The APTT reaction without the ~~additional~~ addition of APC (or PCA) should be within the normal range of 25-40 seconds.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5 beginning at line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

A prothrombin time method is described in U.S. Patent No. 5,726,028. The assay uses Thromborel S®[.], a tissue factor/phospholipid preparation from human placenta and protein C activator. The endogenous protein C in the sample is activated by the protein C activator and forms with protein S active APC/protein S complexes. Clotting is induced by adding calcium ions, and the resulting APC/protein S complexes delay clot formation.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 5 beginning at line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

A need exists, therefore, for a reproducible, sensitive and stable, and functional Protein S assay that, optionally, does not require comparison of the patient results to the results from a normal patient.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 9 beginning at line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The protein S assay of the invention involves mixing together test plasma, PS deficient plasma, factor diluent and a PS assay reagent comprising TF, PL and APC or [[PLA]] PCA (see, for example, Example 5). Potential analytical interferences are minimized by diluting the test sample about 20-fold with PS-deficient plasma and factor diluent, so that the assay is specific for protein S. The assay results are linear over the range of 5%-150% Protein S activity. The variation of calibration curves is small with <3% coefficient of variation (CV) over a period of 2 weeks. The assay is reproducible, with <3% within-run CV and <5% between-run CV for normal samples, and <5% within-run CV and <8% between-run CV for abnormal samples (<30% PS) (Figure 1).